

Serial No. sn

--Abstract of the Disclosure

Watermarks $WM_1 \dots WM_k \dots WM_N$ are applied to sections $1 \dots k \dots N$ of digital media content on a recording medium having an identification number (CDID) by combining numerical values representing CDID, N and i in accordance with a concatenated hashing function, to derive a numerical value for WM_i . The numerical value for WM_i is applied to section i , where i is selectively each of $1 \dots N$. The watermark of section j is checked by determining the numerical values of CDID, j and N from the read digital media content and determining the watermark WM_{ja} actually read from section j . The determined numerical values of CDID, j and N are combined by using the same hashing function that is used to derive WM_i to derive a digital signal for the watermark WM_{jr} read from section j . The digital signal for watermark WM_{jr} that should be read from section j is compared with an indication of the numerical value for the watermark WM_{ja} actually read from section j . If CDID is read directly from the medium, the WM_{jr} that should be read from section j is derived from $H(CDID \diamond N \diamond j)$ where H is the hashing number and \diamond is the concatenation of numbers. If CDID can be read directly, $H(CDID)$ is determined by modular subtraction of $H(N \diamond k)$ from the value of WM_{ja} actually read from section j .--